

FARM NUMBERS

The number of farms in Minnesota in 1998 was estimated at 80,000, 1,000 fewer than the 81,000 farms in 1997. Land in farms decreased to 28,900,000 acres from 29,100,000 acres in 1997. The average farm size increased to 361 acres from 359 acres in 1997.

Over the last five years, significant attempts have been made to resolve differences and make procedural changes so that the farm definition for both the Census of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) would be the same. The farm definition for the Census of Agriculture and NASS is now the same and represents USDA's "Official Estimates" of Farm Numbers and Land in Farms. A farm is defined as any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

NUMBER OF FARMS, AVERAGE SIZE, AND LAND IN FARMS: MINNESOTA, 1987-98 1/ 2/

| Year | Number of Farms | Land in Farms | Avg. Size of Farms |
|------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | Number | 1,000 Acres | Acres |
| 1987 | 92,000 | 30,000 | 326 |
| 1988 | 92,000 | 30,000 | 326 |
| 1989 | 90,000 | 30,000 | 333 |
| 1990 | 89,000 | 30,000 | 337 |
| 1991 | 88,000 | 30,000 | 341 |
| 1992 | 88,000 | 29,800 | 339 |
| 1993 | 86,000 | 29,700 | 345 |
| 1994 | 84,500 | 29,500 | 349 |
| 1995 | 83,000 | 29,400 | 354 |
| 1996 | 82,000 | 29,200 | 356 |
| 1997 | 81,000 | 29,100 | 359 |
| 1998 | 80,000 | 28,900 | 361 |

1/ A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

2/ 1992 and earlier farm numbers and land in farms are for a June 1 reference date. Starting with 1993, numbers are for the entire year.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS: BY SALES CLASS, MINNESOTA, 1993-98

| Year | Sales Class | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | \$1,000-\$9,999 | \$10,000-\$99,999 | \$100,000 & over | \$1,000-\$9,999 | \$10,000-\$99,999 | \$100,000 & over |
| | Number of Farms | | | Land in Farms (1,000 Acres) | | |
| 1993 | 30,500 | 33,500 | 22,000 | 3,200 | 9,600 | 16,900 |
| 1994 | 30,000 | 33,500 | 21,000 | 3,300 | 9,500 | 16,700 |
| 1995 | 30,000 | 32,500 | 20,500 | 3,300 | 9,300 | 16,800 |
| 1996 | 29,000 | 31,500 | 21,500 | 3,100 | 9,000 | 17,100 |
| 1997 | 29,500 | 30,500 | 21,000 | 3,100 | 8,700 | 17,300 |
| 1998 | 29,500 | 29,500 | 21,000 | 3,100 | 8,500 | 17,300 |

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